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Well, whaddya think? The weatherman promises two fair days in succession.

The Kaiser talks just like a man who feels himself justly entitled to the Nobel peace prize.

Sports as usual seems to be the prevailing slogan now emanating from big league headquarters.

An exchange seems to think it is Dr. Garfield, rather than the coal situation, who is psychological.

The reports that Ty Cobb is to go to the front may serve to make the Kaiser more amenable to reason.

By way of varying the monotony, France, once in a while, makes a peace drive into the German lines.

It is a mark of exclusiveness to suggest that one cuts no ice these days. There's plenty of ice to be cut, all right.

The South Carolina legislature meets every year, which is just twice as often as is desired by the Greenville News.

Portugal has not yet vitally affected the war in Europe, but she continues to manifest symptoms of internal indigestion.

In announcing that he does not expect to convert congress, Billy Sunday manifests an almost human intelligence.

Senator McKellar appreciates patriotism, but he just naturally suspects the man who offers his services at \$1 a year.

In proposing secession from Mexico, Lower California may not know where she is going, but is ready to start, just the same.

Every few days, Gen. Goethals is given another position, which seems to suggest that he is almost as versatile as W. G. McAdoo.

Billy Sunday is now training his guns on the national capital, which we are forced to admit, deserves little of our sympathy.

The Savannah News declares, in opposition to parroting a pretended congressman, that there are already enough imitation congressmen.

New York anti-suffragists—some of them—are asking for another referendum in that state, which shows how, little some people have to do.

Trotzky, when backed into a corner, doesn't appear to relish the prospect of a German car much more than one of the domestic brand.

The Louisville Evening Post is disgusted with the situation in Wisconsin. So much so that it spells the late senator's name as Husted.

The Rutherford county court manifests a willingness to allow both the Dixie and the Memphis-to-Bristol highways to pass through that county.

The "dry" amendment is now up for consideration in Kentucky. And so far as observable, there has been no slackening of the prosecution of the war.

According to the Bristol Herald-Courier, Kentucky colonels are not disturbed over the sugar shortage since they take theirs without sweetening.

The Charlotte Observer naively admits that the town has never had cause to regret the efforts its citizens made to get an army camp located nearby.

If congressional critics are to be termed friends of Germany, what should be the designation of members of the council of defense who take care of their relatives.

After the railroads, the Augusta Chronicle thinks the taking over of the coal mining interests logically follows. In other words the Chronicle would put the government to digging coal.

We are constrained to agree with those who think that now the government has charge of the railroads, the arrangement of terms of actual ownership might wait until the war is over.

There is one variety of hog which should be carefully excluded from the rallies tomorrow. The breed in mind always gets more than its share; it also thrives without attention—really, better that way.

With more than half of those qualified under the first draft not yet in camp and with another million available from class one, it would seem that lowering the age limit is more or less of an academic question.

BOUND TO WIN.

The president asks members of congress to vote for the Susan B. Anthony suffrage amendment as a matter of simple justice to the women. That, after all, is the best argument and indeed the only one needed. Let justice be done though the heavens fall. They will not fall in this cause. The results, as shown by experience, will be for the best. But if it is justice to give the women the vote, Woodrow Wilson, as executive of the greatest of all democracies, whose sword has been drawn for justice and humanity the world over, believes that we should practice the principles of what we speak.

What will be the effect of the president's utterance on the vote in the house on the amendment today we cannot yet know. The friends of the measure are very hopeful. If it secures the necessary two-thirds vote it is likely to have an easy path through the states. If the amendment loses this measure of simple justice is only delayed, not defeated.

STATE RAILWAY COMMISSIONS.

When the federal government took control of the railroads, we wondered what would become of the railroad commissions of the various states. Others besides the commissioners themselves, have evidently been thinking of the same thing, as witness the following from the New Republic, which is reassuring to this more or less superfluous form of public service:

"The state railway commissions ought to be assured that the establishment by the federal government of a railway dictatorship will not mean their elimination, any more than it will mean the elimination of the private organizations by which the railways are now run. To be successful a railway dictatorship needs the services of the personnel of the commissions, federal and state, as well as those of the railway personnel. The immediate need is the unification of all the interests that in time of peace often work at cross purposes. It is in the national interest that the interests of the states should be protected, in so far as such interests comport with those of the nation. The state railway commissions have the experience qualifying them to represent the state interests before the national railway administration. Some of their powers they will have to forfeit. They will no longer be in a position to hold down intra-state rates when the times require a general advance. They will no longer be in a position to compel train service where the traffic does not justify such service in time of war. But under unified national control the states will run less danger that their desires will be overruled than that their legitimate needs will be overlooked. The state railway commissions are worth preserving as sources of information as to local requirements and originators of suggestions as to methods of providing for local needs."

The foregoing may be taken for what it is worth as a brief for the state commissions. We do not regard the logic as at all compelling. State railway commissions may have been distinctly useful in some states. In Tennessee, the powers of the commission are not extensive and it has not been very energetic in the use of such as it had. Its chief function seems to have been the assessment of the roads for taxation, which might be done by somebody else at less cost.

U. S. FOREIGN TRADE.

Exports from the United States footed up the enormous total of \$6,294,000,000 for the year 1917, which is a figure far exceeding that of any preceding year. The net balance in favor of this country was also a record sum, totaling \$5,634,000,000. Imports were \$2,660,000,000. While all of these figures are phenomenal and abnormal, they have an immense significance to this country.

Our foreign trade is abnormal in that so large a proportion of it consists of war supplies. For the same reason, it is more or less abnormal in point of prices of commodities exported. But it is observable that our trade has been growing in other merchandise than war munitions and equipments, and with the countries not involved in the war. While the bulk of foreign demands have come from Europe, the trade with other parts of the world shows a corresponding increase.

Exports to North American countries, principally Canada and Mexico, increased from \$529,000,000 three years ago to \$1,164,000,000 last year, more than double. Shipments to South America were also more than doubled, running from \$125,000,000 to \$260,000,000. Goods going to Asia increased from \$118,000,000 to \$380,000,000; to Oceania from \$84,000,000 to \$111,000,000, and to Africa from \$28,000,000 to \$55,000,000. Everywhere the same story of expansion is shown from the records. A situation is disclosed which is of vital concern to the producing interests of the United States and one worthy of careful study.

There will always be business between this country and the nations of Europe. It is, of course, worth cultivating. But it seems to us, by far the most promising foreign trade field lies on the American continent. Particularly, we think, this is true of the countries of South America, where there is so much room for development. Our commerce with South America, while important, is in its infancy. A great opportunity confronts us there. We should not—and will not—fail to improve it.

By employing discretion and business acuity, this country should hereafter dominate the American continent, commercially as well as politically.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Consequent upon the introduction in congress of an old age pension bill, Frederic J. Haskin has been making a study of legislation on the subject. The investigation brings to light much interesting information. The measure provides a pension of \$20 a month to American citizens over 65 years of age whose income is less than \$300 a year.

It is cited that a survey of economic conditions in Massachusetts in 1915 disclosed the fact that there were living in the state at that time 138,947 persons over 65, of whom 34,495, or a little more than 17 per cent, were dependent upon public charity. The percentage of dependency in Massachusetts, it may be remarked, is probably less than the average of all the states.

The annual average amount expended for the keep of dependent old persons in Massachusetts was ascertained to be \$94 a year.

Since 1900, it is shown that nearly all European countries have established pensions for dependent old persons. These may be classified, however, under two general heads, the one which is termed the non-contributory plan under which the pension is paid out of the public revenues as are other public expenditures, and the other the contributory plan under which the beneficiaries provide their own all-welcome for old age from the proceeds of small annual contributions somewhat after the manner of an insurance policy. The government, in the latter instance, merely intervenes to collect the contributions and pay out the pensions under the law.

The first named plan prevails in Great Britain and Denmark, where the rates paid graduate from a very small annual stipend to \$165. The average in Denmark is said to be \$50. In Great Britain, however, the minimum is \$122 a week. It is also stated that Great Britain was influenced to adopt the non-contributory plan on account of the large number of dependents in need of immediate assistance. Australia and New Zealand have similar systems to those of Great Britain and Denmark.

On the other hand, the contributory, or compulsory insurance plan, has been adopted by France, Russia, Italy, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Rumania, Holland, Greece, Luxembourg and Iceland. In these countries, a graduated tax, according to earnings, is collected from which the pension fund is replenished. The tax is, of course, not large, but extends from 16 to 70 years of age. The rates of pension paid are not large, but are also graduated. Payments become available at 70 years, or sooner in case of invalidity.

We know little of the provisions of the bill which has been introduced in the American congress, but our preference inclines strongly to the contributory plan. It seems also that it should be optional with those who desired to take advantage of it. A system which would provide an unconditional pension to all persons reaching 65 would, in our opinion, promote much more of rascality than of thrift. It would tend to deaden the activities of one's productive life to know that in no case would he come to want in his old age. But the contributory plan would be a continual incentive to thrift, in that the provisions for old age were conditioned upon and corresponding to one's earnings in his younger years.

And we can see no reason for discrimination in favor of government employees, whether federal, state or municipal. The fact that one works for the government should create no presumption that he is better than one who works on his own account or for some individual or corporation. It ought not to relieve him of the responsibility of providing for himself and family when he can work no longer. To do so is to transfer the burden which is justly his to other shoulders who already have their own to carry. Government salaries, on an average, probably correspond to about as much or more than can be earned elsewhere, or positions in its employ would not be sought.

Nearly every phase of human endeavor comprehends a public service, anyway. Those who mine coal, raise hogs or operate trains are just as much public servants as those who carry the mail or do clerical work in the treasury or war department. Preparation for old age is a duty incumbent upon all. It cannot honorably be placed upon others—not even the state. Any undertaking of such character by the state should contemplate payments from a fund contributed by those who expect to profit from its benefactions.

Perhaps those who have been worrying over what they have termed the pro-German propaganda for prohibition and suffrage, which they so greatly feared would distract attention from the winning of the war, will now include the president in their list of traitors.

A Knoxville convict has made affidavit that he is morally unfit to be a soldier in the national army. And since he was convicted of killing a policeman who chased him out of a negro dive, his plea is a pretty strong one.

One of our correspondents reports the shooting of a duck which had swallowed a jackfish three inches long and which weighed three-fourths of a pound. The fish must have been a rather plump one and the duck must have made a fairly good swallow. But it was a very good story.

OLD MEN AND WOMEN.

The world war, by taking the young men into the armies and navies, is making places in the business world for the old men and the women. It is finding jobs for those who, in some instances perhaps, were beginning to consider themselves mere cumberers of the earth.

The world's work must be done. "Business as usual" is the slogan. There is a shortage of the ordinary workers which must be recruited from somewhere. The women and the older men afford the only reserve from which the needed help is to be assembled. And they are responding to the call with an alacrity characteristic of loyal Americanism. Speaking of this new avenue of usefulness which has been opened up to the old man, the Memphis Commercial Appeal says:

"The man who has no special ability and who has neglected to provide himself when he should; the man who permitted to slip through his fingers the days when opportunity provided for him the way for making himself a valued member of the community; the man who lived only in the today, looked lightly upon his yesterday, and thought but little of the seriousness of his tomorrow, this man, in his maturing years, has found it difficult to obtain suitable work."

"War has given him another chance. Merchants and men of industry are willing to co-operate with war and help him along. Avenues once closed are again opened to the old man. He can drive a laundry wagon just as good as a boy can, he can perform other minor labors with just as much efficiency and he is being recognized after years of neglect."

"Old men for counsel, young men for war" is an ancient adage. Old men for an emergency reserve while young men are fighting is a suggestion of kindred import. So the old man is back on the job. This refers, of course, to men who serve in the capacity of employees, since old business and professional men do not so readily surrender their places to the young. The older man may not be quite so speedy as the young, but he will probably be more careful, and will probably not kick if he is asked to work a few minutes overtime.

We are all too ready to brush older folks aside, because they don't want to travel at our gait. The tendency is not a good one. They can do much to advise and aid us if only we were willing to consult them. Perhaps, now that we have been forced to call upon them, we shall learn a new respect for the men of years. The lesson of mutual dependence which is being brought home to us should bring with it a lesson of mutual consideration. Those who have borne the heat and burden of the day should be treated with deference and courtesy in life's afternoon. There is still room for the old folks.

"HOME WARRIORS."

Vorwaerts, the social democratic German newspaper, complains of the bellicose disposition of the "home warriors" who would keep the war going on indefinitely, and are seeking to prevent a peace on fair terms for Germany. There are "home warriors" in all countries. They can drink a bucket of blood before breakfast. Vorwaerts says that a recent meeting where the "home warriors" were seeking to arouse sentiment for the pan-American policies a lot of crippled soldiers let them know very positively that they did not approve of their policies. The soldiers who have seen fighting are never as bitter as those back at home. They are willing to do their duty, and even die for their country, but they have no illusions about war. Their opinions on all these matters ought to be consulted. Those who are asked to give much or give all for their country's cause, should have voice in fixing the nation's policy. If Germany yields to the annexationist junkies it will not be because the soldiers in the trenches who are suffering for the fatherland insist on a policy of conquering territory, but because the class of men who have given Germany this hour of misery insist that that wretched conspiracy shall be carried on to the end.

A man is said to have answered, once upon a time, when asked what means the community had for fighting fire, that it rained sometimes. On the same sort of hypothesis, Dr. Garfield might promise relief from the coal famine when spring comes.

RELIGION AND WAR

(Norman Hapgood, in Atlanta Journal.) London, Jan. 3.—One British minister, after speaking of the task confronting the churches as appalling, said they would have to achieve great things in the next twenty-five years or go under. Ministers have, indeed, been in a difficult position. If they said nothing about the war they would need genius indeed to hold interest on other topics. If they preached the prevailing temper of the New Testament they would be grouped with the much scolded conscientious objectors. If they undertook to be "red-blooded" they would sound unbecomingly Father Vaughan, the famous British Jesuit stated that there was just one duty—to kill Germans; that he thought of them merely as rats; that even after the war the world to him would continue to be peopled by human beings and Germans.

Yet never in our day has there been a louder clamor for religious doctrine and teaching. One hears it constantly, but it is all vague. It is bewildered. In the mind of the ordinary being the war is right and yet contrary to the teachings of Christ. He cannot reconcile his two convictions. "You cannot get him with merely a forced construction of a stray text. The texts he thinks of are 'Resist not evil,' 'Judge not.' 'Thou shalt love thine enemy as thyself.' Knowing the trend of Christ he draws his own conclusions about His probable view of war. He classes Him as on the side of the Quakers and the peace-loving. The Quakers seem to him the only sect that has cut an agreeable figure in this war, even though he does not share their views. He deems himself a Christian and he is on the other side. He cannot work it out."

As far as my experience goes the most popular poem written in Eng-

RUSSIA NOT BEYOND FIGHTING

(By RAYMOND NEUDECKER.)

A Daily Chronicle of Doings at the Nation's Capital.

Washington, Jan. 10.—Washington does not view with alarm the reports that Germany is marshaling all her forces for an assault of unprecedented strength against the western front.

Secretary of War Baker, in his weekly review, says that the Teutons may be expected to put their last ounce of reserve power into this drive, which will be for two purposes aside from the military advantage that may be obtained.

The first purpose will be to strengthen their failing influence in Russia and inspire the bolsheviks with the fear that it were folly on their part to treat the German peace offers with such apparent coldness. The second will be to make good the promise of the military authorities to the people of Germany that the time has not yet come when Germany cannot make an offensive thrust like that which is said to be in preparation.

Do Not Fear It. Many military experts here do not look for an overwhelming offensive movement by the Teutons. It is certain that they will not attempt a prolonged drive into the French and British lines until the fear of a Russian attack is removed. The belief, does not generally exist here that Russia is beyond fighting effort.

The depot quartermaster's office in this city handles an immense amount of work for the war department. Army officers find that men truck drivers are getting scarcer every day and are anxious to secure the services of reliable women who can stand the work of these jobs. The pay to start is \$70 per month. Officials are anxious to try the experiment here and it may be extended to apply to other cities if found satisfactory.

Washington needs women conductors, elevator operators, messengers and officials will start a country-wide campaign, if necessary, to secure these employees in order that nothing may be neglected in the nation's central office of war.

THE JARR FAMILY

By Roy L. McCardell

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"The landlord of these apartments let us freeze during the cold spell, because he claimed he was running short of coal."

"All right," said Mrs. Jarr. "I had a million dollars and gave it to you and you could afford to live in an elevator apartment that was warm in winter, in the city; or a suburban villa, right near to a coal-burner in winter, in the country, in summer. All right, let us suppose it. You have twenty dollars I gave you. Let us say it is a million. Before you go downtown and spend it, let me have two dollars of it for carfare and luncheon today, old dear."

"Two dollars?" cried Mrs. Jarr. "I will not! You've had your spending money this week, what did you do with it?"

"I had two dollars left, and I lent it to Cassidy, at the office."

"Why did you lend him money?" asked Mrs. Jarr.

"His wife was mad at him and wouldn't let him have any of his money back. He foolishly gave her all his salary."

"Foolishly," asked Mrs. Jarr.

"I gave it to her, and then they had words because he had come home late, and the next morning she wouldn't give him any money and he only had carfare to the office; so give me two bucks, please."

"Do you think I am going to give you two dollars to give to every Tom, Dick and Harry?" asked Mrs. Jarr.

"You see how wealth has made you penurious," remarked Mr. Jarr sadly. "I have just bestowed a million dollars on you and you will not let me have two to see me through the day."

"You haven't given me a million dollars, and you know it, so don't talk foolishly!" said Mrs. Jarr. "Here's fifty cents, that's enough for you. I suppose you will give that to your men friends, too? If you need any more, let your boon companion, Cassidy, buy his wife's pardon and get two dollars from her and pay you back what he owes you!"

"But you see, my dear, I owed Cassidy two dollars and when I gave him the amount I was only paying him back."

"Well, borrow from him again," said Mrs. Jarr. "Or borrow it from Jenkins, seeing he is so fortunate that he lives next to a coal-burner and can get rich quickly by stealing coal on the sly. I'll give you a check for a million. I wouldn't let you squander it right and left. Here's the twenty-five cents I said you could have. And I want you to bring me back eight or ten three-cent stamps tonight. I've a letter to write, one to Mrs. Jenkins at her East Maloria collyard mansion!"

Allied Morale Good.

Washington refuses to be "scared" by such reports. Secretary Baker's opinion may be right and still there is no cause for alarm. Army officials do not regard seriously the possibility of Germany breaking down the morale of the opposing troops and forcing a wedge deeper into occupied parts of France and Belgium. They believe Germany would not have held these positions defensively during the last two years at such horrible costs of men and materials for the purpose of calmly biding time to strike. Leaders here do not universally expect a terrific assault by Germany on the western front.

In the meantime there is no let-up in the double-quick program of preparations here and in other centers where business of war takes preference over everything else.

The depot quartermaster in Washington has called on the civil service commission to furnish an eligible list of women motor truck drivers, elevator conductors, watchmen, messengers, owing to the scarcity of men needed in these lines. The commission has not yet held examinations, but will do so, it is said, if applicants are to be found, and a campaign will be waged to find them.

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derer or a pro-German when he plainly speaks for so influential a action of public opinion as Lord Lansdowne evidently did. There can be no question that the effect of this remarkable letter is to be traced in the quiet tone of Lord George's latest speeches with the total absence of the truculent "knock-out-blow" tone of his earlier utterances.

TO THE EDITOR

(Communications in this department represent the views of the writers. All matters of public interest may be discussed briefly.)

High Cost of Bread.

Editor The News: One thing makes the cost of bread so high is the middlemen. Cut them out and buy your bread from the baker. He has to give the middleman fourteen 10-cent loaves for a dollar. He will give you twelve 10-cent loaves for a dollar. Thus he will save you 20 cents. If you get two loaves extra. If you use a dozen loaves per week, the bread will keep that long. Let the wrapper stay on till you use it and it won't get hard, and if you keep it in a cool place it won't get moldy. A success loaf ten days, and it is not impaired by age. Always buy bread that is wrapped up in good paper. Some of our bakers seal their bread up in good waxed paper. Light bread is healthier two or three days old than fresh bread. Always have the money to pay your baker when he comes. Designate one day in the week for him to come.

W. J. GLADISH, SR.

UNITY TO WIN WAR

Editor The News: Unity of action, and the solid front presented by both political parties in backing up the administration in the emergency now upon us is not only commendable, but absolutely necessary. Democrats and republicans must put their shoulders to the same wheel—the wheel that is rolling—to crush out autocracy and militarism and establish democracy in its stead.

It is observed that in Hamilton county a plan is on foot to eschew any political contests and thereby avoid the rancor and strife incident to such contests.

This government is a republic as well as a democracy, and that means that the voice of the people is the law of the land. It is a success and the only government why will putting it into practice endanger our patriotism at any time, much less at a time when we are fighting for that very thing to be established all over the world?

Why annul our own democracy while fighting for our own democracy, as well as that of others? If we have a week we admit its weakness and are fighting for something not worth fighting for.

The voice of the people should rule now as it has in the past. The will of the people is the republic in its inherent strength and upon their shoulders rests the greatest democracy on earth. But in the hour of our need or all parties go down, the war must be won, and if all the offices must be given to the democrats without a contest to keep them in a good humor, give it all to them. We will not let their hides when the war is over and won.

But why do they think it unpatriotic for a republican to aspire to a county or state office?

They do not so think. It is a wily scheme. Republicans are in this war to the hilt and will not embarrass the administration by their own party. If it requires disintegration of political parties to win the war, let it come. We can rebuild parties, but our country must not fail.

W. N. HINKLE.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chicago boasts of the meanest man. He runs a candy store near a schoolhouse. His showcases are made of magnifying glass.

Economy Note—A good way to conserve the match supply is to leave the gas burning.

—Gas Co. Advertisement.

Sam Spivack, of Gary, Ind., crossing a field the other day found a rope. He dragged it home and to his surprise and good luck found a cow tied to the end of it.

Camouflage is nothing new. How about a man with the list of about camouflaged with French names, making them look what they ain't.

A Detroit marvel has invented a towel that has a bell attachment and rings when the washer gets soap in his eyes, so he'll know where it is.

Lack of Bunker Coal Holds up Vessels. (Marine Record.)

There are in the port of New York nearly one hundred and fifty steamships, most of them seriously handicapped by the lack of coal for their bunkers. More than thirty vessels arrived at this port Tuesday, and many others have been coming in since the first of the new year. Nearly every ship needs coal.

Some engineers on outgoing steamers have made demands for certain classifications of bunker coal. As there are sixteen of these the particular kind is not always available. It is believed that too much haggling over the quality of coal is not to be endured. No ship will, of course, go to sea with a bad quality of coal, but in times like these a quality not quite up to the mark which has been heretofore used should, it is contended, be accepted.

Although the total tonnage of the ships held here because of a lack of coal is withheld, its volume is sufficient to make a decided difference in the plans of the government for the departure of foodstuffs and soldiers. The biggest of British transports has been unable to get coal for her return trip to England, and there are at least two American liners here in similar plight. In addition, there are scores of other foreign bottoms awaiting the much-needed fuel, while the naval supply seems as far away as it did a week ago.

Italy Has New Type of Ship. (Marine Record.)

Italy has planned a new type of merchant ships capable of better defense against enemy submarines, and a committee charged with an investigation of the plans has recommended the construction of a standard type, says an official dispatch from Rome as follows:

The committee charged with studying the plans for the construction of new ships offering greater safety and better means of defense against the submarines has completed its work.

"The committee has suggested and approved a standard type which can be rapidly built."

The advice contained no details concerning the character of the improvements of the new type of ship over those now in use. The authorities acquainted with the design declined to discuss it on the ground that any information would be of value to the enemy.